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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Frederick M. Ausubel et al. Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Serial No.: Not yet assigned Examiner: Not yet assigned
Filed: October 10, 2001 Customer No.: 21559
Title: VIRULENCE-ASSOCIATED NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCES AND
USES THEREOF
BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, kindly consider the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 2-43, without prejudice, and add new claims 44-52.

44. A substantially pure polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 92 (ORF11738).

45. The polypeptide of claim 44, comprising an amino acid sequence that is

identical to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 92.

46. A substantially pure polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 220 (ORF14155).

47. The polypeptide of claim 46, comprising an amino acid sequence that is identical to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 220.

48. A substantially pure polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 252 (ORF19544).

49. The polypeptide of claim 48, comprising an amino acid sequence that is identical to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 252.

50. A substantially pure polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 272 (ORF23228).

51. The polypeptide of claim 50, comprising an amino acid sequence that is identical to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 272.

52. A method for identifying a compound which binds a polypeptide, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a candidate compound with a substantially pure polypeptide of claim 44, 46, 48, or 50 under conditions that allow binding; and

(b) detecting binding of the candidate compound to the polypeptide.

REMARKS

The present invention provides polypeptides related to microbial pathogenicity and methods of identifying compounds that bind to these polypeptides.

Claims 2-43 have been canceled, and new claims 44-52 have been added. New claims 44-51 recite polypeptides that are substantially identical to a polypeptide encoded by ORF11738, ORF14155, ORF19544, or ORF23228 (as disclosed, for example, on pages 10 and 13-16 of the specification). Claim 52 recites a method for identifying a compound that binds any one of these polypeptides (see, for example, page 8, lines 18-22).

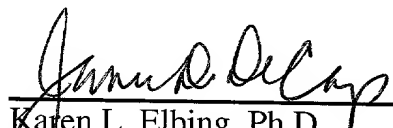
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

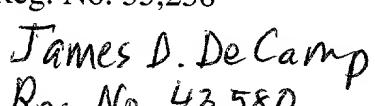
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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10 October 2001


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